



## **Proposed Fishing Regulation Changes – 2018**

April 5, 2018

*Note: new language is in italics. Deleted language is indicated by strikethrough.*

### **WESTERN DISTRICT**

CHANGE – page 40

#### **KOOTENAI RIVER**

- As per the District Standard Regulations, the Kootenai River is closed to angling for Bull Trout; any Bull Trout caught must be immediately released.

##### **Libby Dam to Highway 37 Bridge, near Fisher River**

- Open June 1 through February 28.
- Combined trout: 1 daily and in possession, 28 inch minimum length.
- *Brown Trout: All Brown Trout must be killed immediately, kept, and the entire fish turned into FWP. Anglers who catch Brown Trout in the Kootenai River are required to report the catch to FWP within 24 hours (406-752-5501). Anglers must provide the angler's full name, ALS Number, phone number, date and time of capture, and location on the river. Anglers are required to turn in the whole Brown Trout to a FWP office during regular business hours and within 10 days of capture.*

##### **Libby Dam to Kootenai Falls**

- *Brown Trout: All Brown Trout must be killed immediately, kept, and the entire fish turned into FWP. Anglers who catch Brown Trout in the Kootenai River are required to report the catch to FWP within 24 hours (406-752-5501). Anglers must provide the angler's full name, ALS Number, phone number, date and time of capture, and location on the river. Anglers are required to turn in the whole Brown Trout to a FWP office during regular business hours and within 10 days of capture.*

##### **Highway 37 Bridge, near Fisher River, to Idaho Border**

- Open entire year.
- Closed to angling June 1 through September 30 within 150-yards upstream and downstream of the Quartz Creek stream mouth unless posted at a greater distance.
- Catch-and-release for Burbot.
- Combined trout: 4 daily and in possession, includes 3 under 13 inches and only 1 over 18 inches.
- ~~Brown Trout: no limit.~~

##### **Kootenai Falls to Idaho Border**

- *Brown Trout: no limit.*

##### **Kootenai Falls to 0.8 miles downstream of Swinging Bridge**

- Snagging: open for Kokanee Salmon from September 15 through November 30.

**Public Comments:** No public comment has been solicited for this change.

**FWP Rationale:** This regulation change is in response to the recent discovery of Brown Trout in the Kootenai River below Libby Dam. Expansion of Brown Trout between Kootenai Falls and Libby Dam could negatively impact existing Bull Trout and trophy Rainbow Trout populations. Management action is based on guidance outlined in ARM 12.7.15

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